

ness. You ask, "Who will build our roads for us?". To that we answer, "We will do it ourselves". We will feed the hungry, and we will house the homeless. We can learn much from groups such as the Amish, who spend one day to build a neighbor's barn, a job in our society that takes contracts, permits, thousands of dollars and weeks of time-in effect, waste, cost and alienation.

Anarchy is the friendship of equals extended to all segments of society. If you and your friends wanted something done, would you tax each other, or hire someone else to do it? Or would you work together, accomplishing it yourselves?

Freedom should mean more than the right to be selfish and alone. It should mean individuality tempered by a desire to share in the society you live in: to give of yourself freely, not on demand from some government you didn't vote for but are forced to obey.

Community projects under Anarchism would truly be the result of community desire. The present system of taxes and full-time public workers only our dependency on others, while providing ample leeway for bureaucracy, inefficiency and corruption to grow.



Q: WHO ARE THE ANARCHISTS?

Governments like to stereotype us as terrorists, bomb-throwers, and loonies in an attempt to discredit our ideas, and scare people into the arms of state security. What they present is a false image.

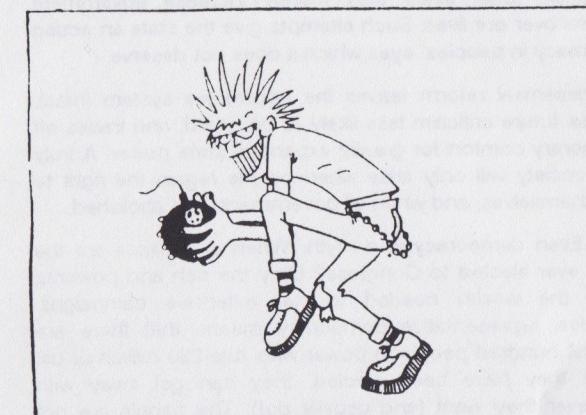
Anarchists are ordinary people, just like you. We come in all shapes and sizes, both sexes, many religious backgrounds and occupations, and all ages. We are workers, writers, students, and teachers. Many of us are involved in community action and political activism. We demonstrate and educate. We fight poverty, war, racism, sexism, animal cruelty, pollution and a host of other things. Many of us are revolutionaries, but some are pacifists. We believe there is no "correct" path to anarchy, but rather a myriad of means to bring about this hoped-for change. We are each working in our own way to do what we can, to approach our goal and to make life a little better and more free.

People tell us anarchy is an impossible pipedream. It is only out of our reach if we believe it to be! Five years ago, people believed communism was invincible, and it was, until they stopped believing so. Once people ceased to grant communism legitimacy, it collapsed virtually overnight.

Any and all governments, whether openly oppressive or subtly in control, can be brought down just as easily if we withdraw our faith in rulers, and put it back in ourselves!

WHAT WE NEED...

We need to join our hands, hearts and minds together. We need to educate, agitate, communicate and ORGANIZE! We need to take our first proud steps towards real liberty, and control over our lives. Only then can we create a better world for ourselves, our Earth and our children.



SMASH THE STATE

This pamphlet is brought to you by the Anarchist Youth Federation, a group seeking to inform people on the merits of Anarchism, and unite all like-minded individuals under the black-banner of freedom. We strive for social revolution and a world free from fear, oppression and authority. Long live Anarchy!

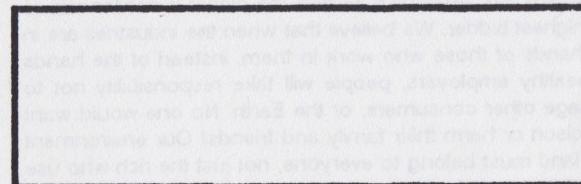
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TAKING CONTROL: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM



Q:WHAT IS ANARCHISM?

Anarchism is society without government. It is not chaos and it is not mindless violence. Governments have always sought to give anarchism a bad name by applying labels like "lawlessness" to it, because they are afraid of the consequences should people learn the truth.

Anarchism is a belief in a free society composed of equal individuals. Anarchists believe that people can take responsibility for their actions without the arbitrary resort to force that is practiced by governments today.

Q:WHY IS ANARCHISM OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT? CAN'T WE CREATE A GOOD GOVERNMENT? WHAT ABOUT DEMOCRACY?

Anarchists are against the notion of government both in principle and in practice. Government is unnecessary since people can learn to take care of themselves and each other. Many of us already do, without being limited and commanded by others.

The concept of government is that a select few deserve power over us all because they know what is best for us. This is ridiculous. Only we can know what is best for ourselves, yet people thousands of miles away who don't even know we exist are running and ruining our lives, making decisions that affect our very existence.

ONLY SHEEP NEED A LEADER



In practice all governments, even "democratic" ones, have shown themselves to be cruel, corrupt, abusive, inefficient, and deaf to the needs and wishes of those they claim to govern. It is the governments of the world which are responsible for oppressive laws, taxes, wars, hunger, sickness and disease.

"Good government" cannot be created because power corrupts. Giving others power over your life and then expecting them to act in your best interests is naive and foolhardy. People who want power over others are those least qualified to have it. Governments cannot be reformed. All attempts made to change government for the better are ultimately futile, since they merely increase government control over our lives. Such attempts give the state an added legitimacy in peoples' eyes which it does not deserve.

Piecemeal reform leaves the oppressive system intact, makes future criticism less likely to be heard, and trades off temporary comfort for greatly expanded state power. A truly free society will only arise when people regain the right to rule themselves, and when all governments are abolished.

Even democracy is a myth. When in America are the poor ever elected to Congress? Only the rich and powerful have the wealth needed to run extensive campaigns. Besides, representative democracy means that there are several hundred people in power who rule 280 million of us. Once they have been elected, they can get away with whatever they want (and usually do). The people are not ruling themselves, but are stuck with the humiliating experience of choosing their masters. America's politicians have more people under their thumb than King George the Third ever did!

Q:WHAT ABOUT THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT IN AN ANARCHIST SOCIETY?

The dominant factor of American society is a capitalist system which fosters class tensions and allows wealth at the expense of others misery. The middle class envies and despises the rich, but has no sympathy for the poor and working class. The working class on the other hand have been promised from birth the middle-class American dream, but now face a closed job market and rising unemployment. Through no fault of their own, they are being squeezed out of a system based on greed which does not concern itself with peoples' lives.

Conservatives tell you they want to get government off of people's backs. What they really want is unrestrained capitalism. But Anarchists believe the planet is not for sale to the highest bidder. We believe that when the industries are in the hands of those who work in them, instead of the hands of wealthy employers, people will take responsibility not to damage other consumers, or the Earth. No one would want to poison or harm their family and friends! Our environment and land must belong to everyone, not just the rich who use it, pollute it, and force the poor to live next to the waste.



Profits cannot come before people. In this respect, governmental laws, as insufficient as they may be, are one of the few things slowing down the monopolies and destruction. However, these laws were introduced only after hard-fought battles by the shop-floor unions and grass-roots organizers. And even now, these minor concessions are not halting the demise of our planet. Governments deserve no credit for the environmental and labor protection measures we now have. We will only save our Earth and each other by doing away with government and running things ourselves.

Free individuals, not states, have been responsible for every improvement in human conditions. The dissolution of corporate capitalism into cooperatives and collectives run by the people is the next logical step in the liberating process of Anarchism which aims to stop worker's alienation, and the destruction of the environment.

Q:WHAT ABOUT CRIME? WHAT ABOUT ROADS?

We feel that most crime stems from economic deprivation and feelings of powerlessness caused by corporate capitalism. With the loss of the profiteering state, crime will hopefully be reduced. Still, human beings are not perfect, and there are no excuses for violent and harmful acts. One goal of Anarchists is to have people take responsibility. Clearly, rapists, thieves and muggers must be dealt with. However, tactics such as mediation, restitution, public service, and a restored sense of community can correct these problems and provide true rehabilitation. Today's prisons and violent police solutions only aggravate anti-social tendencies, producing a hardened criminal population.

Anarchy, above all, involves a change of attitudes. What we need is a sense of togetherness, and a new neighborli-